



PORTFOLIO

ALLISON BROOKS

The University of Kansas
School of Architecture & Design
2024

EDUCATION

University of Kansas | Lawrence, KS
Master of Architecture - Expected May 2026

Architecture in Europe | Study Abroad
Nordic and Scandinavian design in Finland, Sweden, and Denmark | Summer 2024

- Explored the integration of modern and traditional elements in Scandinavian architecture
- Practiced daily sketching of urban landscapes, buildings, and vernacular architecture

Hays High School | Hays, KS
August 2017 - May 2021

- National Honor Society Treasurer
- School Newspaper's Multi-Media Editor
- First place at State DECA competition in Community Giving | 2019
- First place at KAB in PSA's | 2019

EXPERIENCE

KU Design Build
Student Designer August 2023 - December 2023

- Designed and constructed a functional shade pavillion at Hillcrest Elementary School
- 2024 Excellence in Design Merit Award | Academic Built and Unbuilt
- 2024 Excellence in Hot-Dip Galvanizing Award | American Galvanizers Association

American Institute of Architecture Students
Member | 2024

Mentorship Program
Student Mentor | August 2023 - Present

- Serve as a resource for mentees, offering advice on time management, and navigating challenges unique to architecture school
- Provide guidance and support to first-year architecture students, offering insights into coursework and studio projects

23rd Street Brewery
Server, Host, Trainer | 2022 – Present

- 25+ hour work weeks during the school year
- Manage high-volume shifts with efficiency and great customer service

SKILLS

3D Modeling | SketchUp, Revit
Graphics | Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign
Rendering | Lumion, Enscape, V-Ray

REFERENCES

Andrew Moddrell
Professor of Architecture
University of Kansas
andrew.moddrell@ku.edu

Anne Patterson
Professor of Architecture
University of Kansas
annepatt@ku.edu

James Ferguson
Partner/Manager
23rd Street Brewery
913.484.7871



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01

AXIS LOFTS

Bentonville, Arkansas
Mixed-Use Urban Dwelling
Fall 2024

This mixed-use apartment complex in Bentonville, Arkansas, is designed for young professionals, offering modern living spaces with amenities that promote balance and community. Anchored by a wellness center and a restaurant on the ground floor, the project emphasizes health, social connection, and convenience.

The masterplan, developed collaboratively by our five-person team, includes an elevated bike ramp, shared greenspace, and building cut-throughs to enhance connectivity and accessibility. Located between the future Walmart headquarters and 8th Street Market, the development integrates seamlessly into Bentonville’s dynamic urban fabric, fostering vibrant interactions between residents, workers, and visitors.





GRAPHIC BY: COLE SALISBURY

SITE DEVELOPMENT

The site's design focuses on creating a well-connected, sustainable community with an emphasis on multimodal circulation. At the heart of the plan is a central node that integrates pedestrian pathways and bike lanes, with an elevated bike path that ensures safe and efficient movement for cyclists, offering great views of the area. This layout encourages walking and cycling while reducing car dependence. The site also features an extensive network of public parks and shared community spaces that connect the building parcels, blending seamlessly with nearby Bentonville landmarks. By incorporating existing outdoor infrastructure, like bike paths, walking trails, and recreational amenities, the site becomes a hub for exploration and engagement, while still preserving the privacy and comfort of individual living spaces. To promote sustainability green roofs with xeriscaping techniques will help manage water naturally, and additional trees and green spaces at both street and roof levels will further improve water retention. Photovoltaic panels will be included on the roofs of most buildings, and courtyards will be designed to maximize sunlight for energy efficiency.



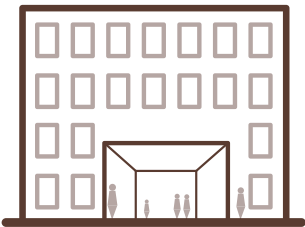
MOVEMENT

A bike and pedestrian highway, no cars! Ample circulation for commuters, shoppers, residents, visitors, and more



VERTICAL LIVING

Terraces bring the park to you! By designing with green roofs and balconies in mind, the living experience is green all the way up



CONNECTION

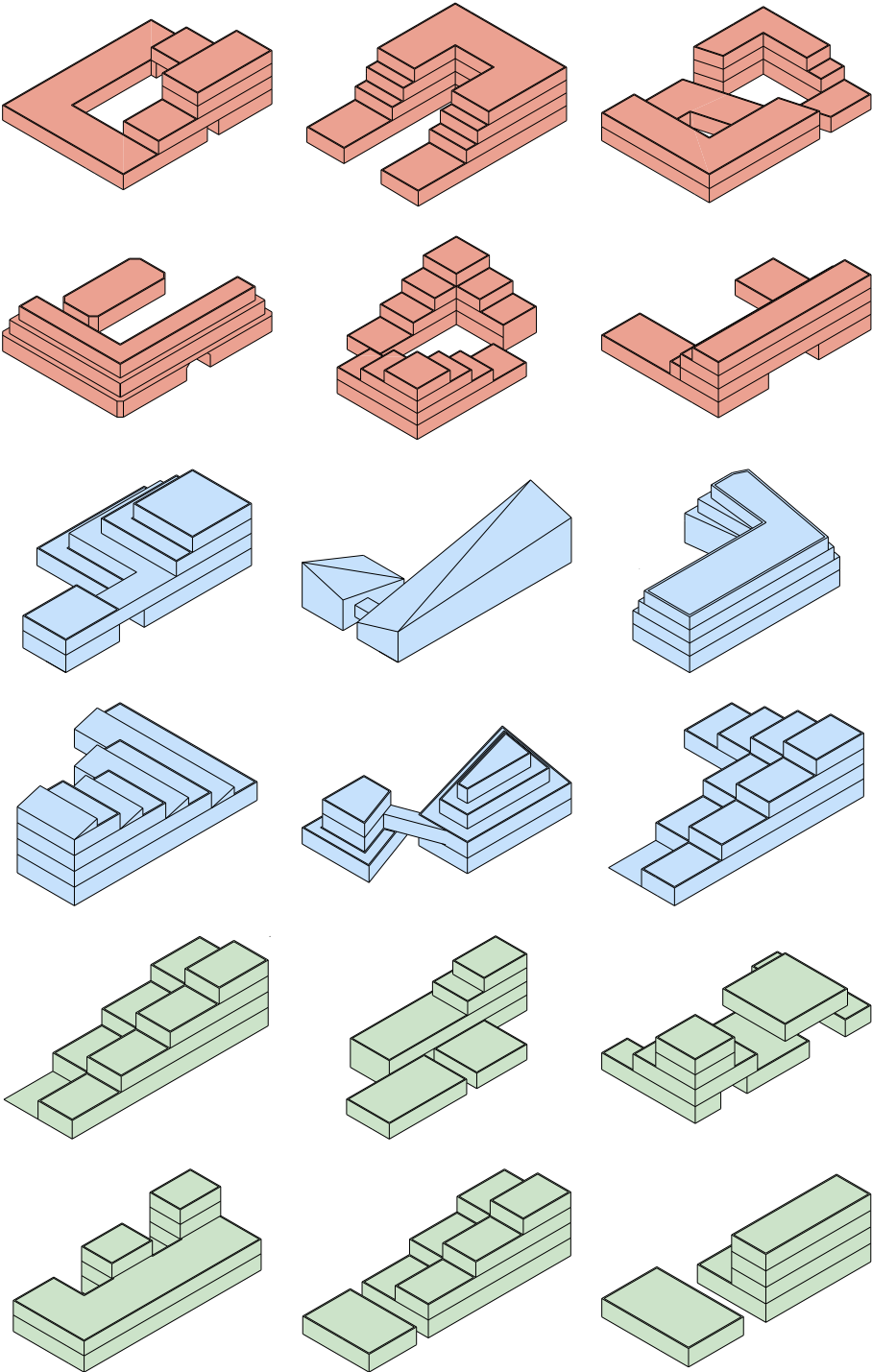
All roads lead to Bentonville! Designing thoughtful connections through buildings at ground level makes navigating the site a breeze(way)



PROGRAM CONCEPT

This mixed-use development caters to the active lifestyle and collaborative work needs of young professionals in Bentonville. The design integrates residential living with dynamic community-focused amenities, promoting a balance between wellness, work, and leisure. This is being implemented through incorporating a wellness center that connects to outdoor tennis courts and a restaurant with community workspaces.

The building aims to create a vibrant, engaging environment that supports the work, health, and social needs of young professionals while enhancing the sense of community within Bentonville.



MASSING ITERATIONS

As part of the design process, I developed three sets of 10 iterations (a total of 30) to thoroughly explore and analyze various possibilities. Each set focused on a distinct design concept. The top iterations from each set were selected to demonstrate massing strategies with the most potential to uphold the streetfront and to encourage a relationship with the central promenade and the community outdoor spaces of our site framework plan.



The wellness program includes:

- A fully equipped wellness center, including fitness rooms, yoga studios, and spaces for wellness workshops.
- Direct access to outdoor tennis courts that promote active, outdoor living and social interaction.
- A community garden that gives back to residents and teaches them valuable sustainable food skills



The community program includes:

- A brewery with indoor and outdoor seating, creating a social hub for residents and locals.
- Integrated community workspaces within the brewery, designed for casual meetings, co-working, and collaboration, fostering a work-life blend.

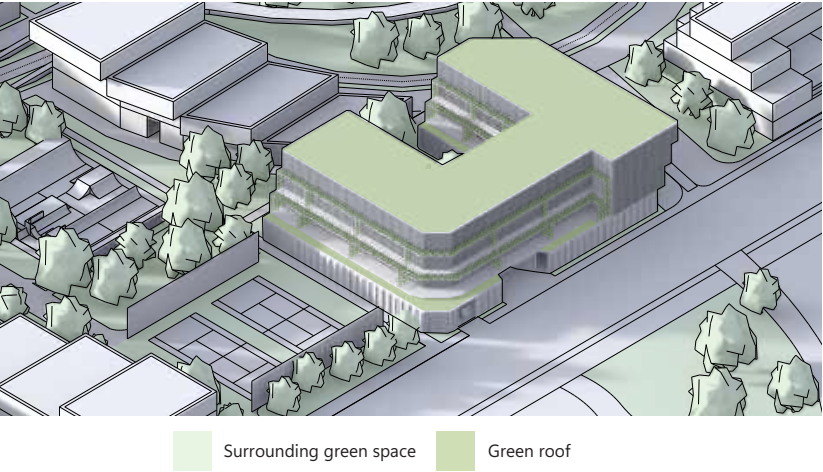
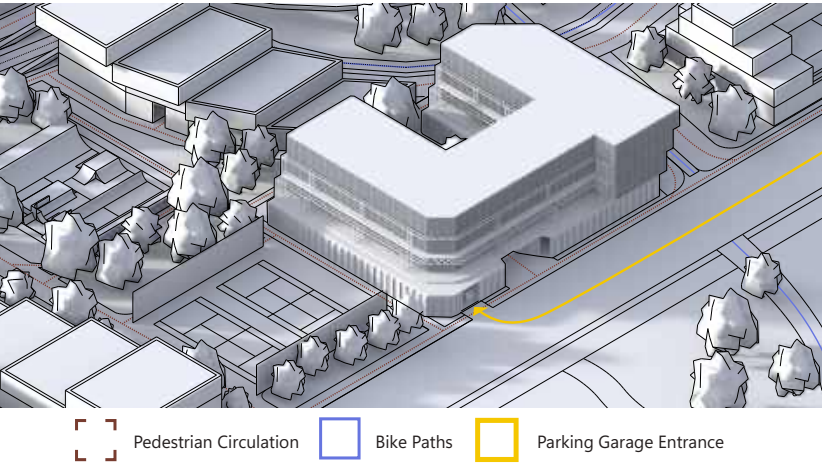
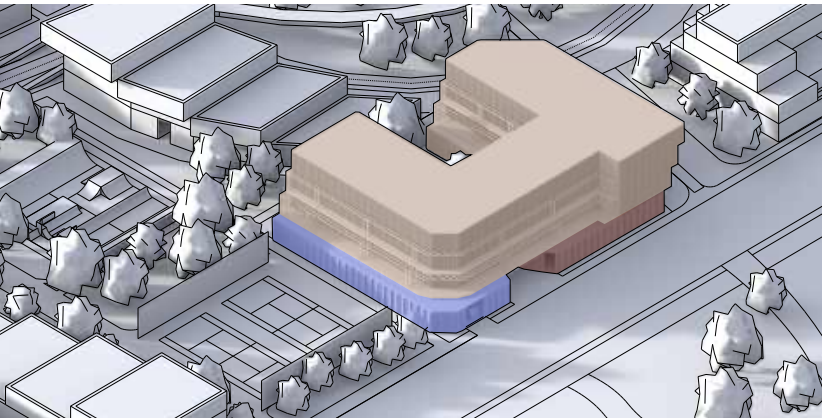


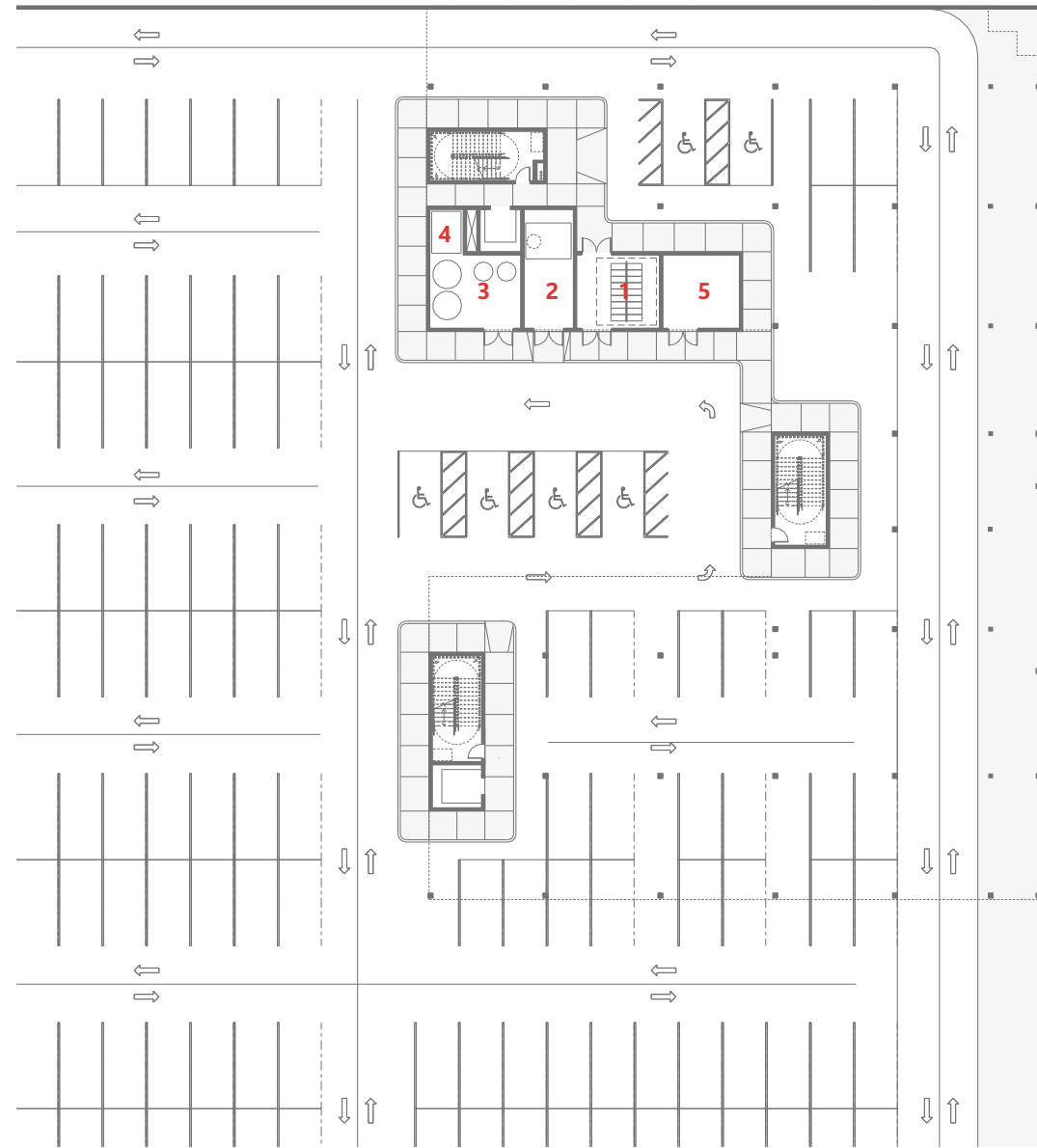
The residential program includes:

- Modern, efficient apartment units designed for individuals and young couples.
- Open layouts, large windows for natural light, and flexible living spaces.
- 16 studio units, 21 one-bedroom units, and 13 two-bedroom units.

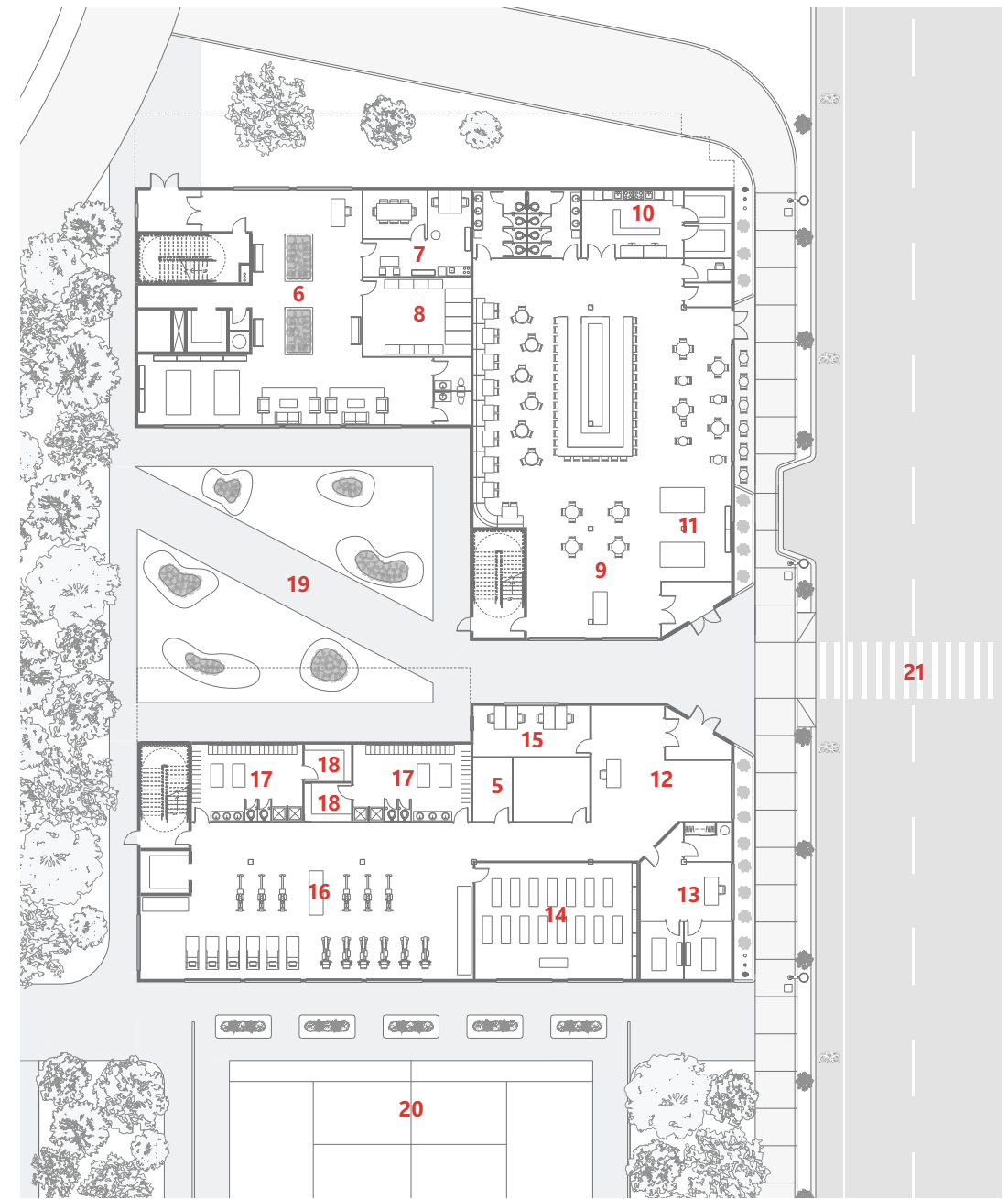
FURTHER EXPLORATION

The progression of my building massing began with the integration of a courtyard combined with the L-shaped building approach to balance communal spaces with efficient spatial organization. This combination allowed for a strong architectural presence along J Street while fostering connections to the site's internal spaces and the pedestrian walkway. The courtyard served as a central organizing element, enhancing natural light and promoting user interaction, while maintaining a prominent and defined edge along J Street to engage the urban context. The image presented here is from the mid-review stage, where the massing had reached a thoughtful iteration; however, the design continued to evolve beyond this point, further refining the relationship between public and private spaces, circulation, and site adjacencies.



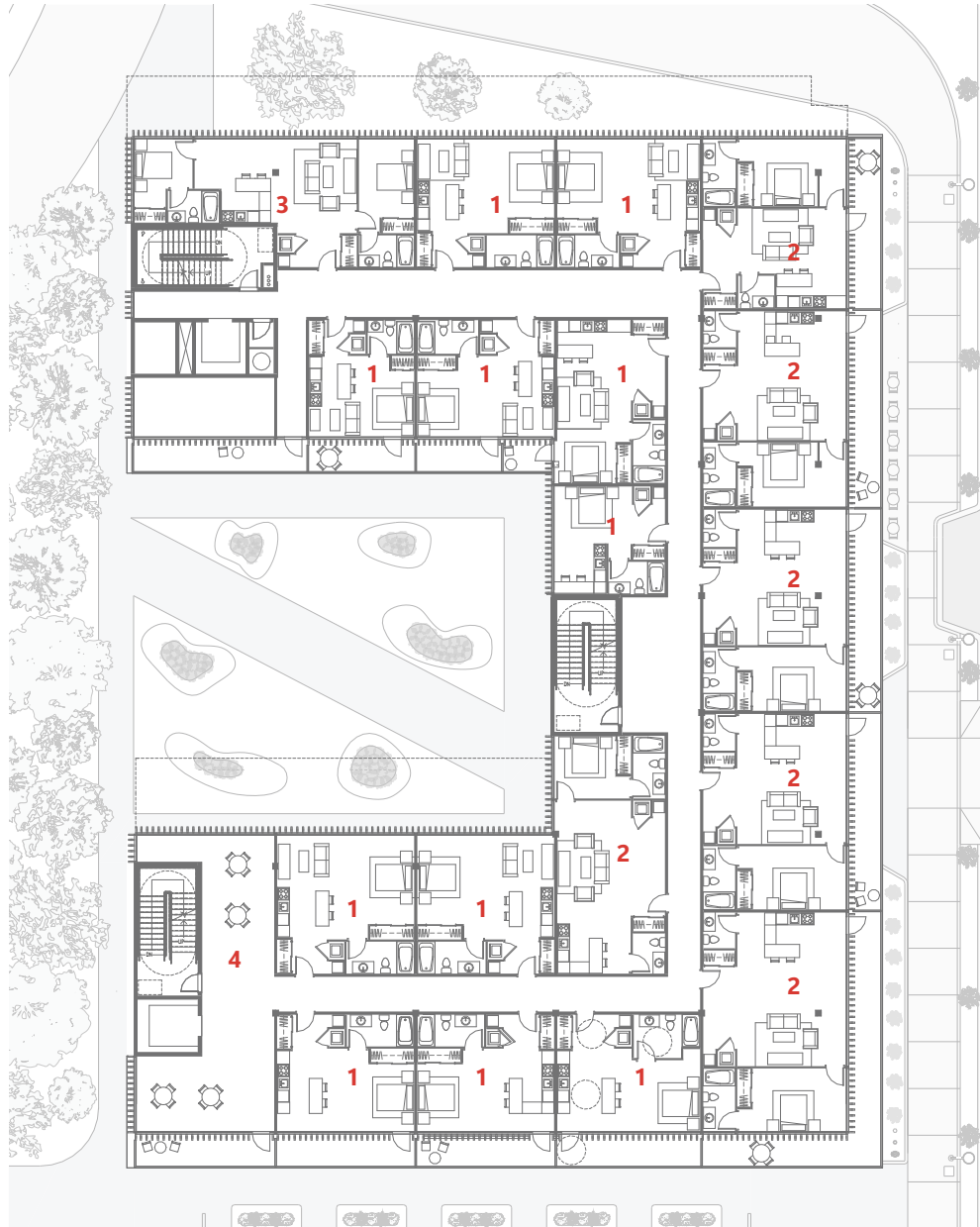


PARKING

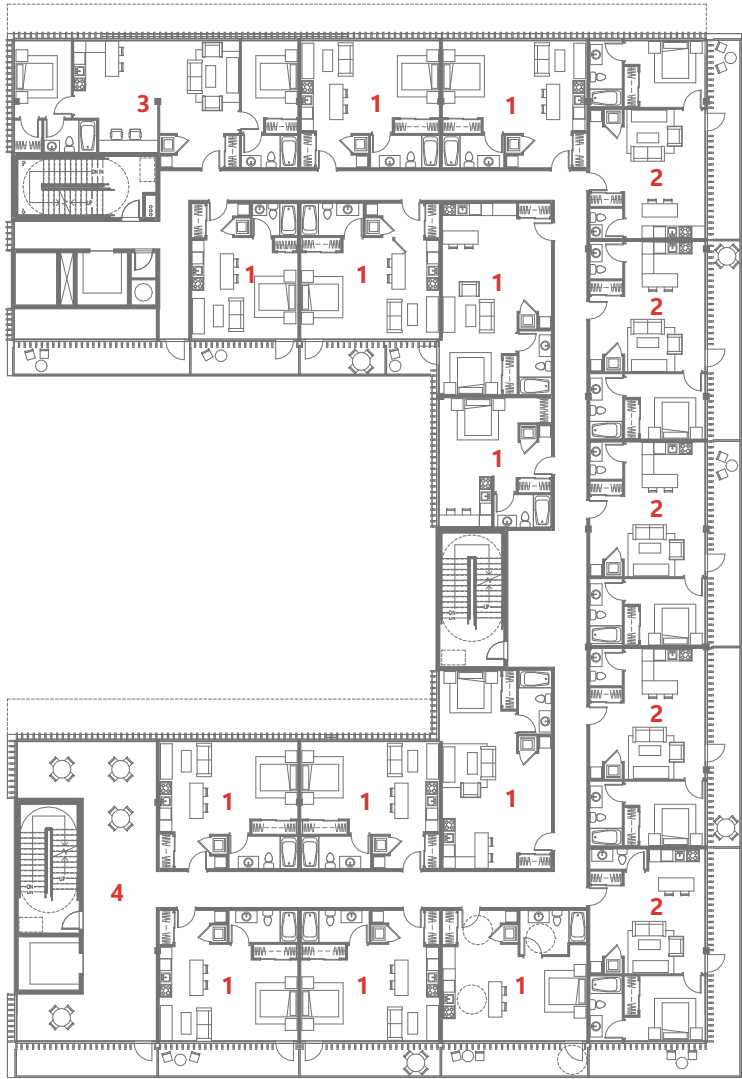


LEVEL 01

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bike Storage | 8. Mail Room | 15. Office |
| 2. Trash Room | 9. Restaurant | 16. Cardio |
| 3. Electrical | 10. Kitchen | 17. Locker Room |
| 4. Mechanical | 11. Pool Tables | 18. Sauna |
| 5. Storage | 12. Wellness Center | 19. Courtyard |
| 6. Main Lobby | 13. Massage Therapy | 20. Tennis Courts |
| 7. Administration | 14. Yoga Studio | 21. J Street |



LEVEL 02



LEVEL 03

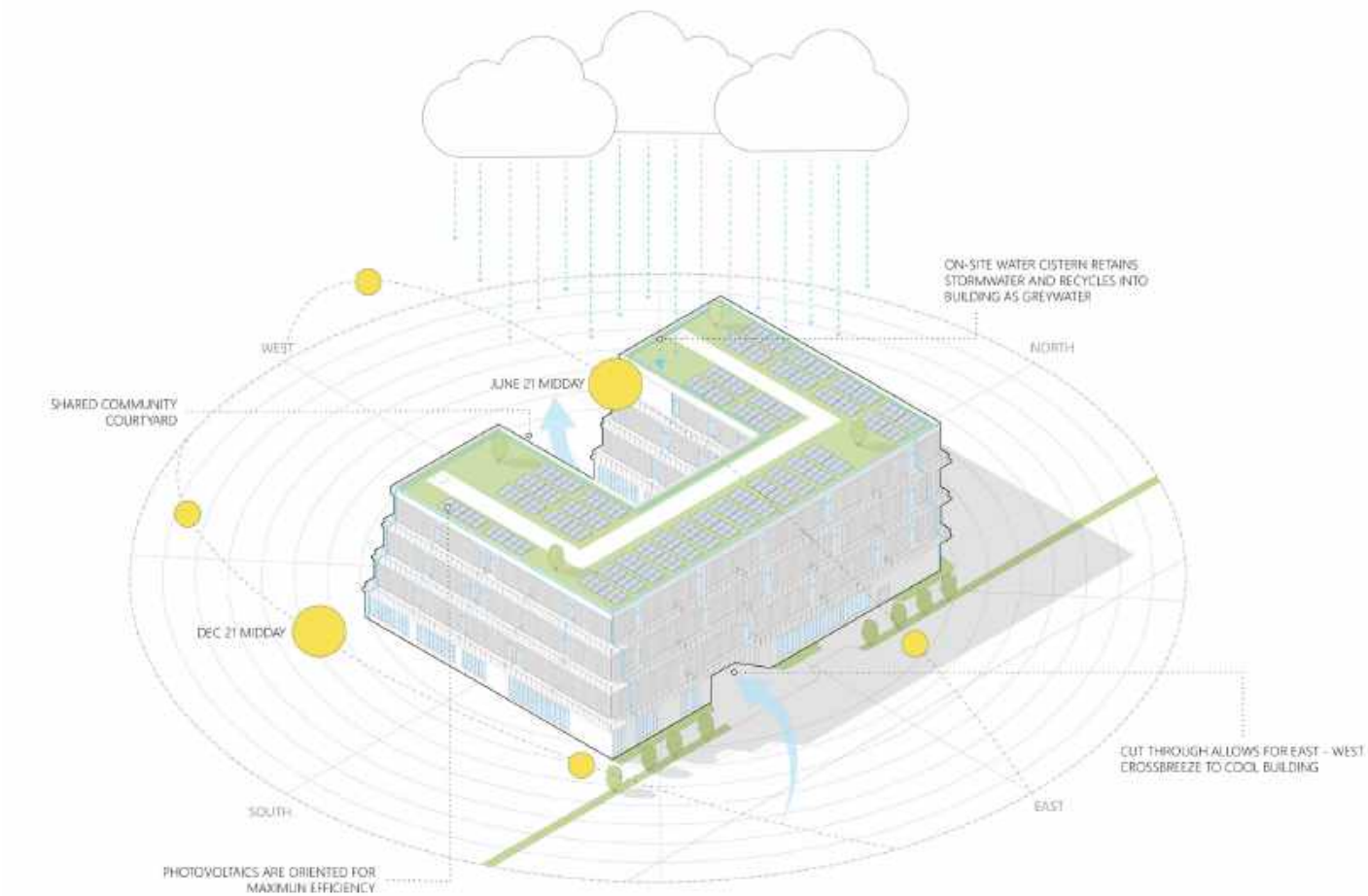


LEVEL 04

- 1. Studio Apartment
- 2. One Bed Apartment
- 3. Two Bed Apartments
- 4. Commons

ECOLOGY DIAGRAM

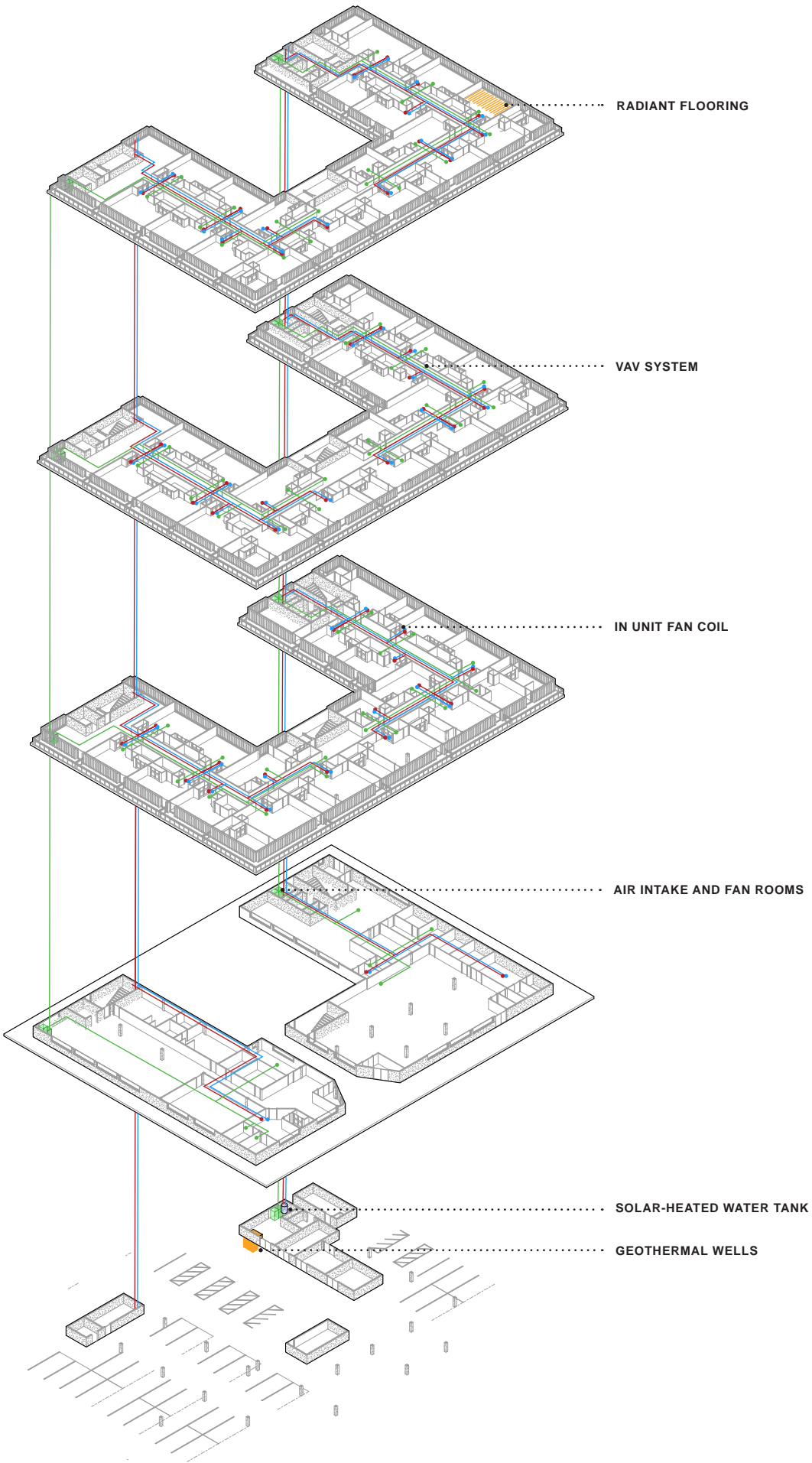
The building integrates passive and active ecological systems, including a west-facing courtyard for airflow and natural light, vertical louvers for solar shading, and a rainwater collection system for irrigation and gray water use. Photovoltaic panels generate renewable energy. Native landscaping and on-site stormwater retention further reduce environmental impact and support sustainability.



MEP DIAGRAM

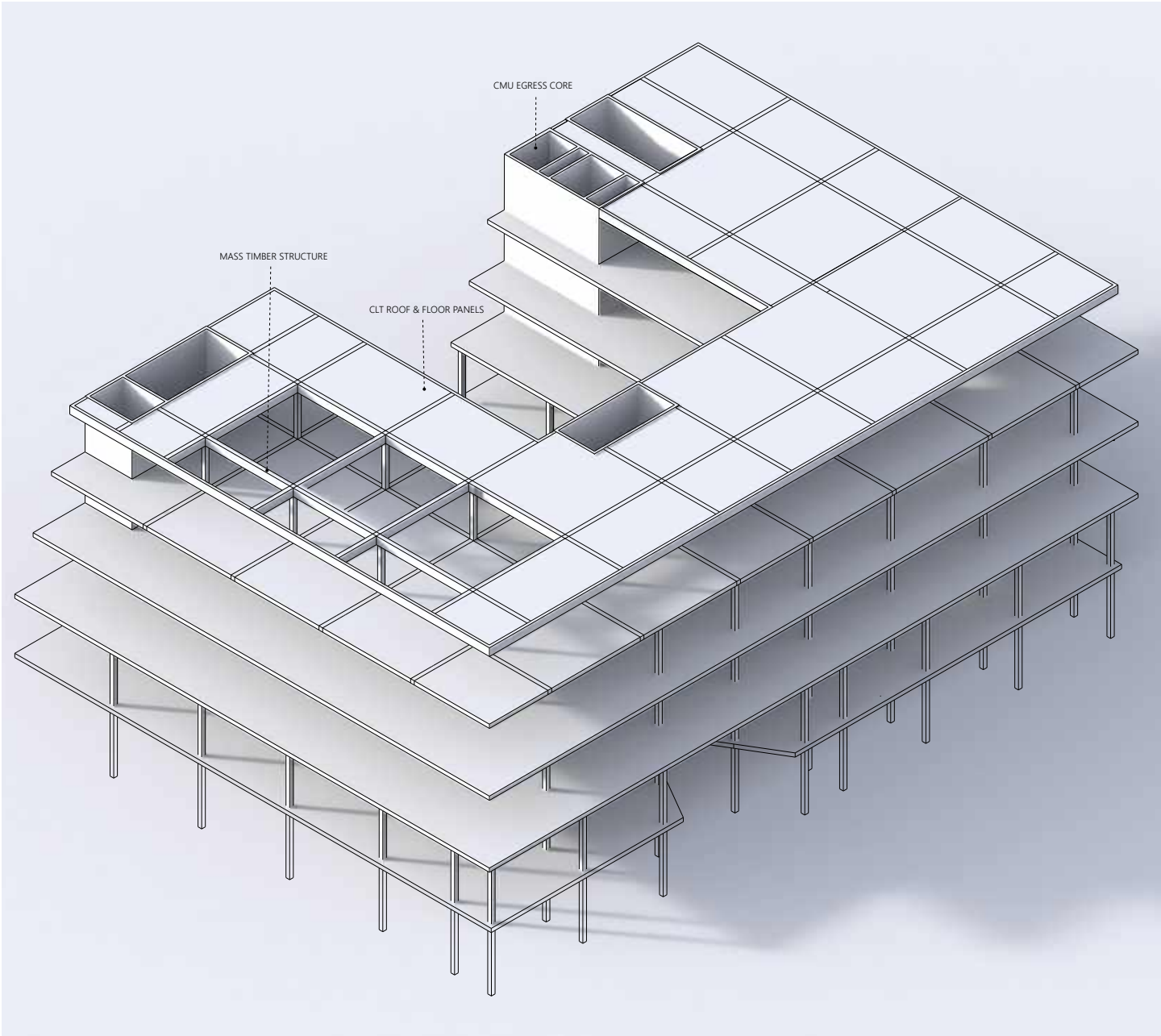
The building incorporates several sustainable systems to optimize energy efficiency and comfort. Geothermal wells provide an eco-friendly source of heating and cooling by utilizing the stable temperature of the earth. Radiant flooring is used throughout the building to provide consistent, energy-efficient heating. A Variable Air Volume (VAV) system regulates air flow based on demand, ensuring efficient climate control in common areas. Heating and cooling loops distribute energy throughout the building, integrating with the fan coils in each unit to provide personalized temperature control for residents. These systems work together to minimize energy consumption while maximizing comfort and sustainability.

- GEOTHERMAL
- HEATING LOOP
- COOLING LOOP
- VAV BRANCH
- AIR SUPPLY
- AIR RETURN



STRUCTURAL DIAGRAM

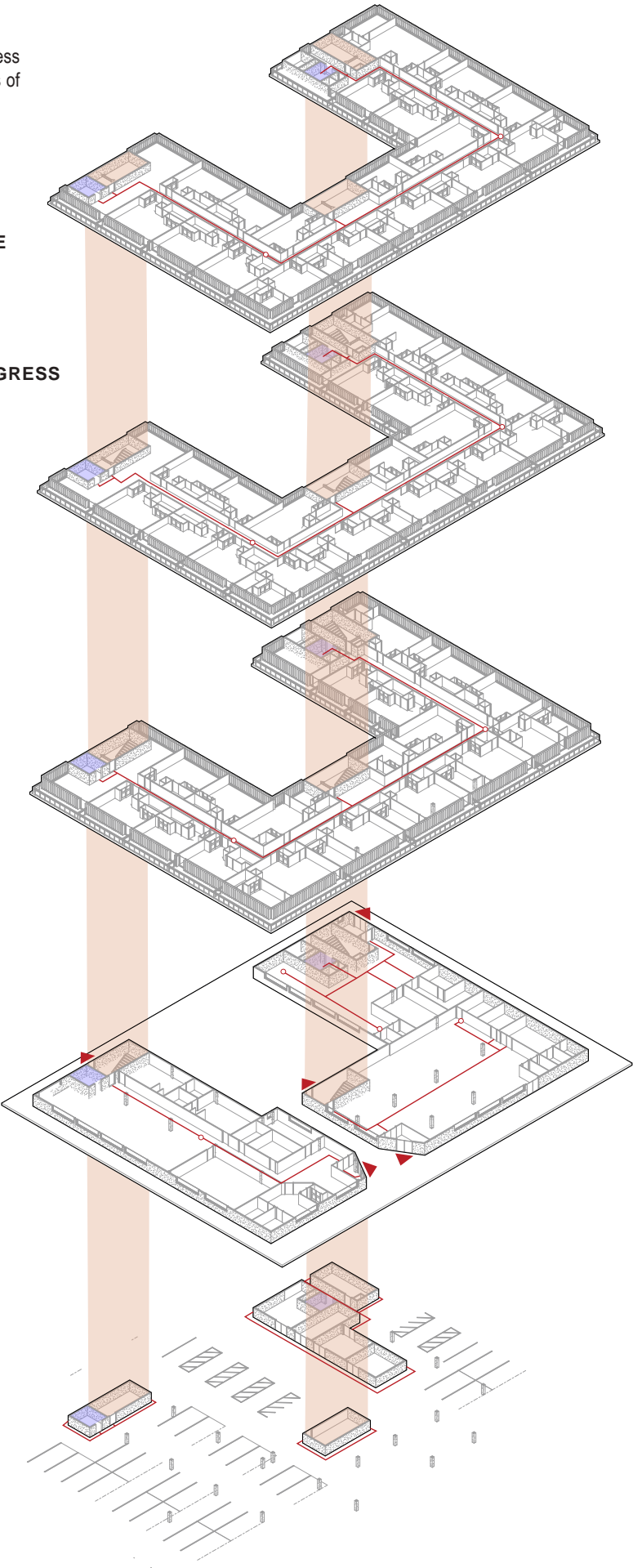
The main structure of the of the building was comprised of Mass Timber (IVC-3 under IBC Code) and uses a two-way beam system. While the building floor shifts from level to level the interior walls were designed to fall in line with the columns.



EGRESS DIAGRAM

The building features three fire-rated egress cores with two elevators servicing all levels of the building.

- FIRE RATED EGRESS CORE
- ELEVATOR CORE
- EGRESS ROUTE
- FURTHEST POINT FROM EGRESS
- EXITS



MATERIALS & MIXED-USE

The corten steel cladding serves as both a functional and aesthetic element, providing durability and weather resistance while enhancing the building's connection to its environment. The use of vertical louvers on the top three floors allows for solar shading, reducing heat gain while maintaining privacy and views. The ground floor, designed with more solid, anchored materiality, features large windows that showcase the commercial spaces, inviting foot traffic and creating a visual connection to the street.



ABOVE
View of the ground level cut through from the
J Street crosswalk



LEFT
View of the Courtyard from shared
community greenspace



02

SOLSTICE CENTER FOR ARTS

Performance Arts Center
Spring 2024

A vibrant addition to downtown Kansas City, designed to host dance, theater, and musical performances. Its striking facade blends the timeless strength of limestone with the modern transparency of polycarbonate, creating a visual dialogue with the surrounding urban environment.

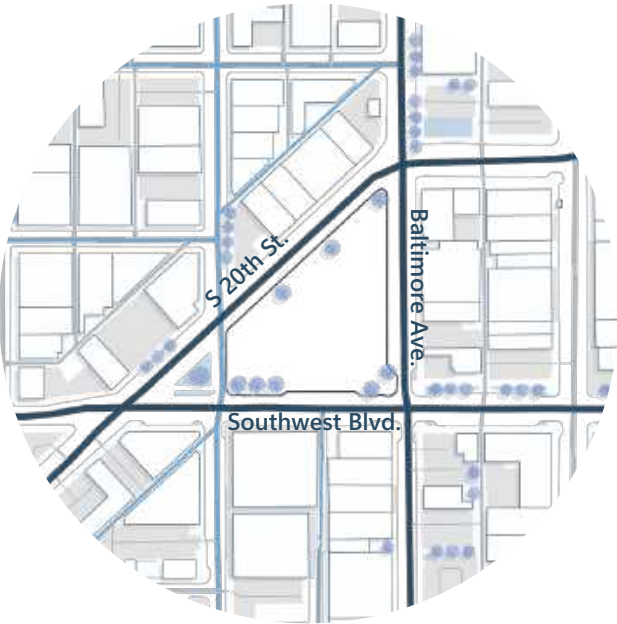
Inside, the main performance spaces are illuminated by three large lightwells, filling the rooms with natural light and creating a dynamic atmosphere for each event. The center is a place where the arts come to life, enriching the city's cultural landscape with a venue that celebrates creativity and connection.



SITE CONTEXT

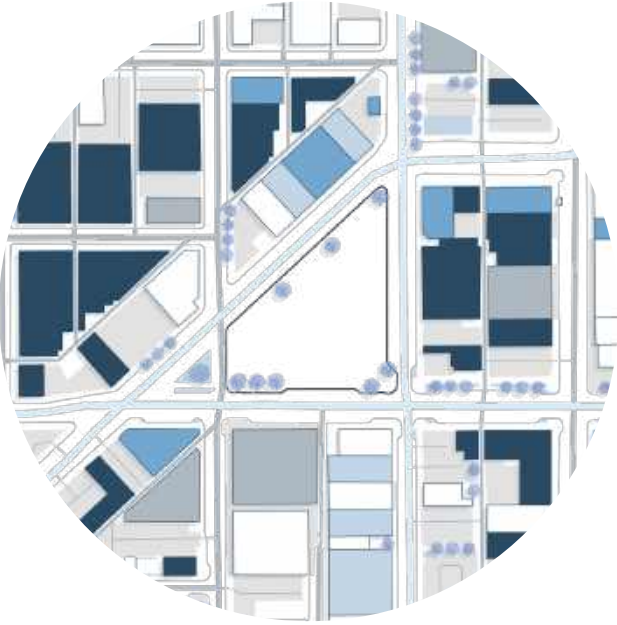
The site for the proposed performing arts center is located in the heart of downtown Kansas City, nestled between Baltimore Avenue, SW Boulevard, and West 20th Street. This vibrant, urban setting places the center within close proximity to key cultural and commercial hubs, offering easy access to nearby restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues. The surrounding area is a dynamic mix of historic and contemporary architecture, with a blend of residential, retail, and office spaces that reflect the city's rich cultural heritage and modern growth.

The site's location along major streets ensures high visibility and accessibility, with connections to public transportation and major roadways. Its proximity to the Crossroads Arts District enhances its role as a cultural anchor, aligning with Kansas City's growing reputation as a hub for the arts. With nearby green spaces, including parks and plazas, the area offers opportunities for outdoor events and public gatherings, further contributing to a lively, community-oriented atmosphere. The site's urban context, combined with its central location, makes it an ideal place for a performing arts center that seeks to connect with both locals and visitors while enhancing the cultural landscape of Kansas City.



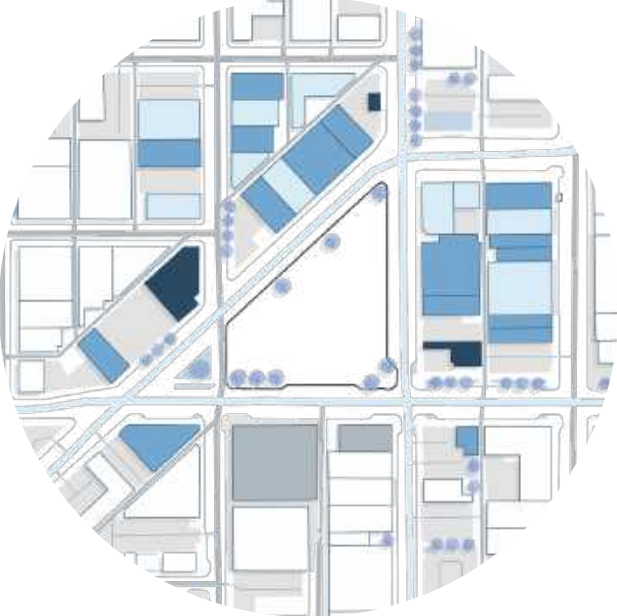
Connections

- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads



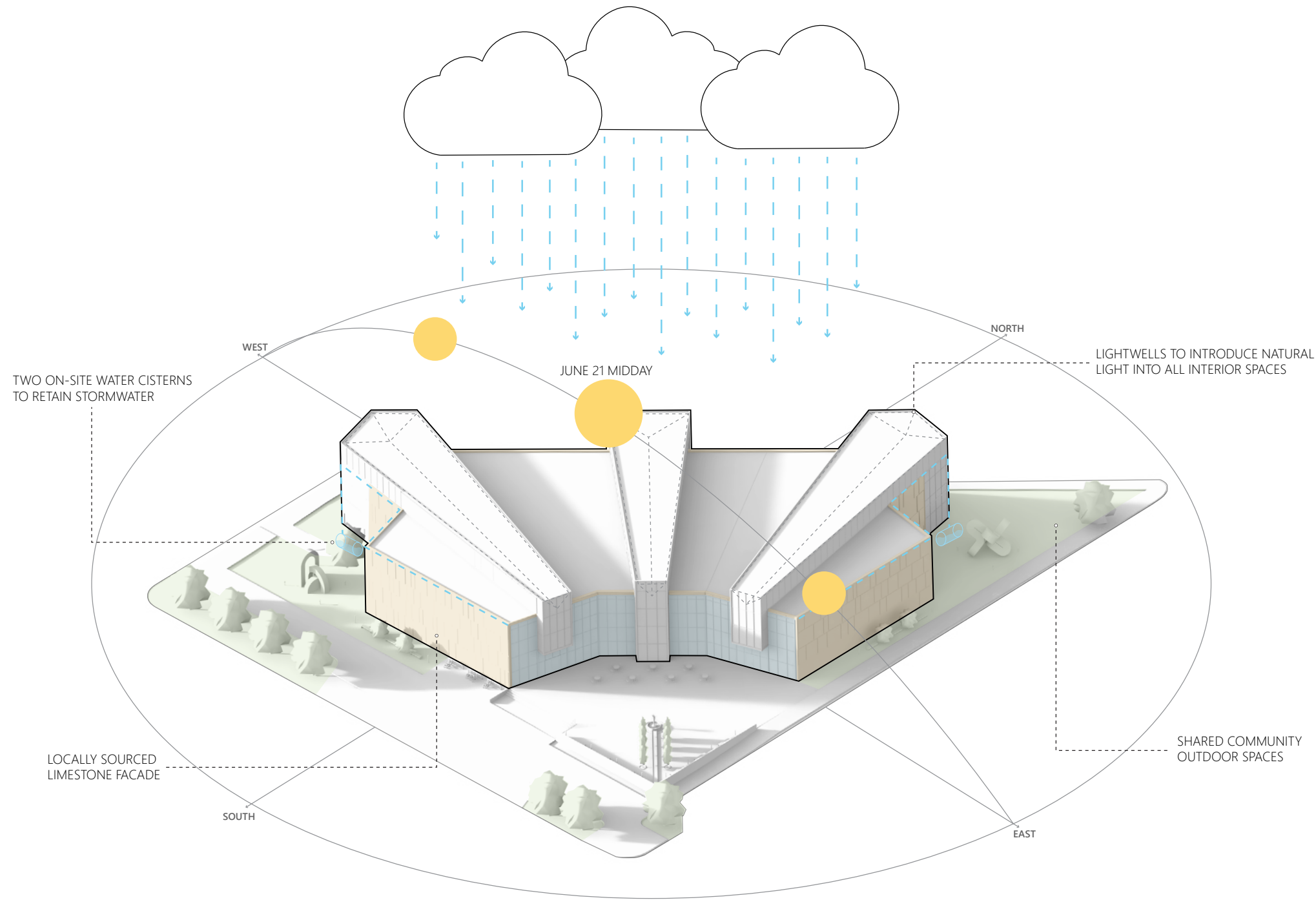
Building Uses

- Arts
- Commercial
- Residential
- Restaurants



Building Heights

- One Story
- Two Story
- Three Story
- Eight Story +

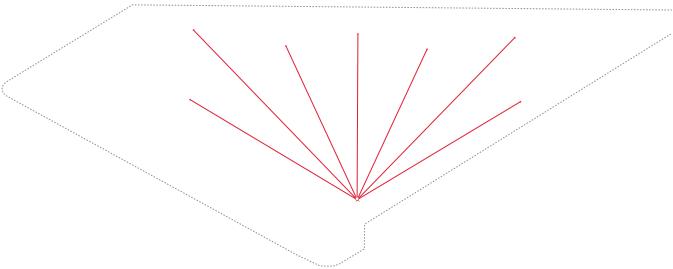


ENVIROMENTAL FACTORS

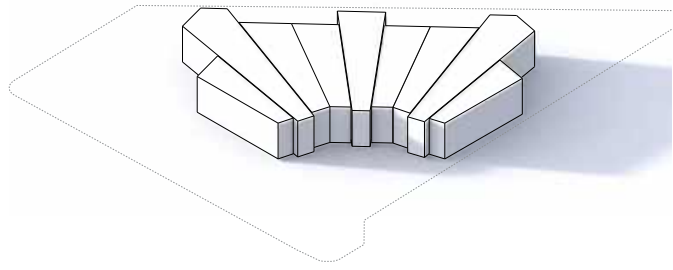
The performing arts center is designed with sustainability in mind, featuring two on-site water cisterns for rainwater collection, reducing water consumption. Its locally sourced limestone facade minimizes environmental impact, while expansive shared outdoor spaces foster community connection. To maximize natural light, three large light wells are incorporated, ensuring every interior space receives ample sunlight, reducing reliance on artificial lighting and promoting energy efficiency.

FORM DEVELOPMENT

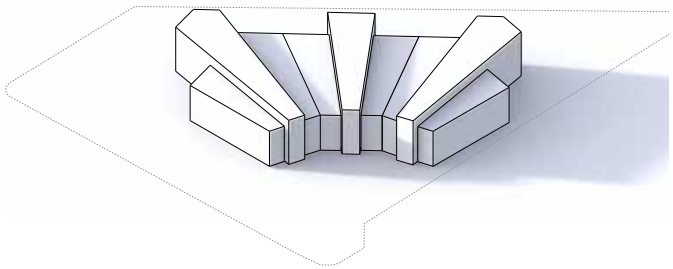
The form began with the establishment of a radial point at the edge of the triangular site, using this as a focal starting point to shape the building's footprint. From this point, the structure branches outward, carefully responding to the unique geometry of the site and ensuring functional circulation and access. The building was then raised to accommodate the performance spaces, with each area of the building designed to meet the specific needs of its function. To enhance natural light, one section above each of the three performance spaces was elevated even higher, forming the large light wells that bring natural daylight deep into the interior, creating a balance of form and function that connects the building's design to its surroundings.



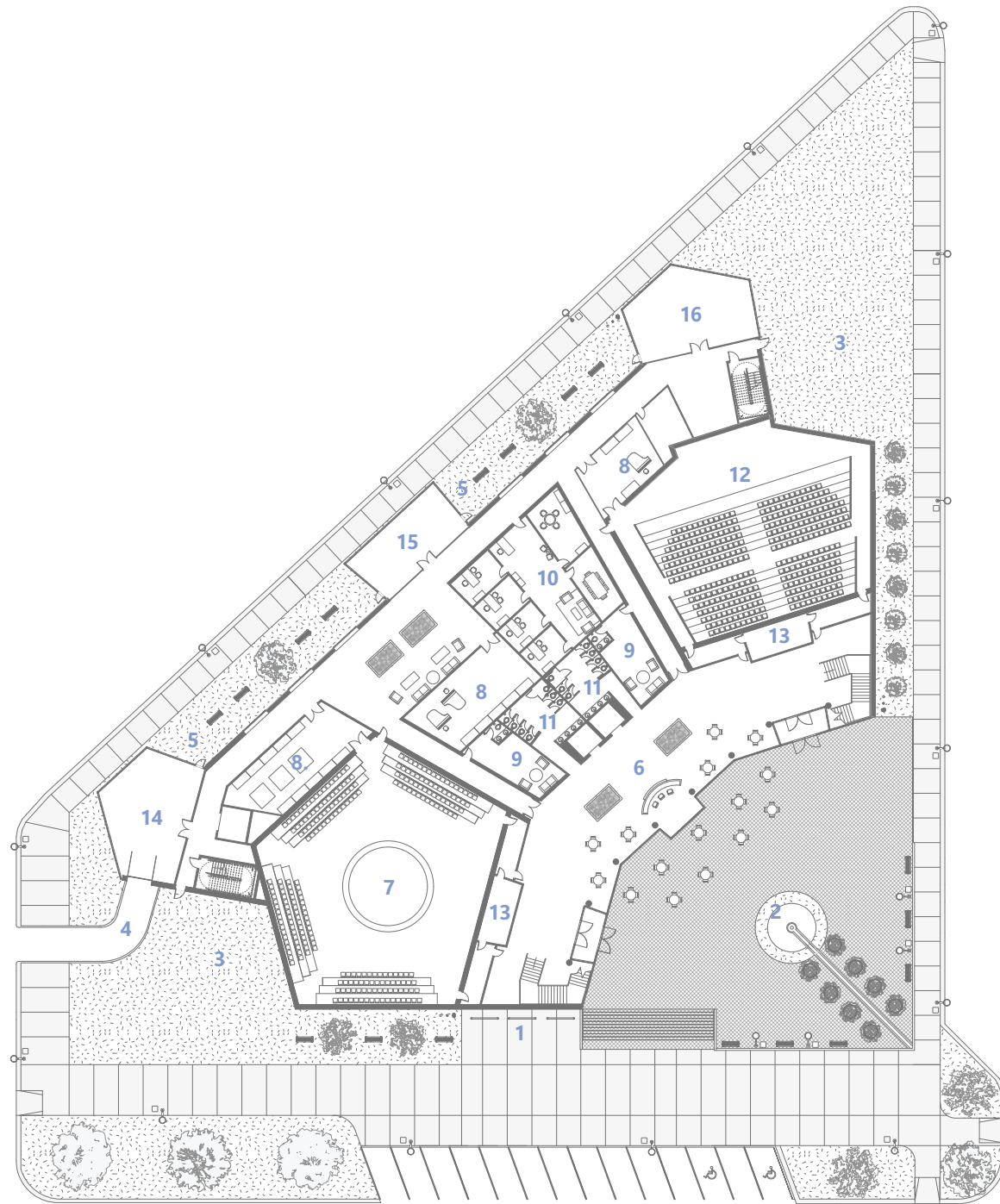
ORIENT TO SITE
Establish an axis from the focal point of the site



EXTRUDE
Create spaces that meet height requirements of their intended use




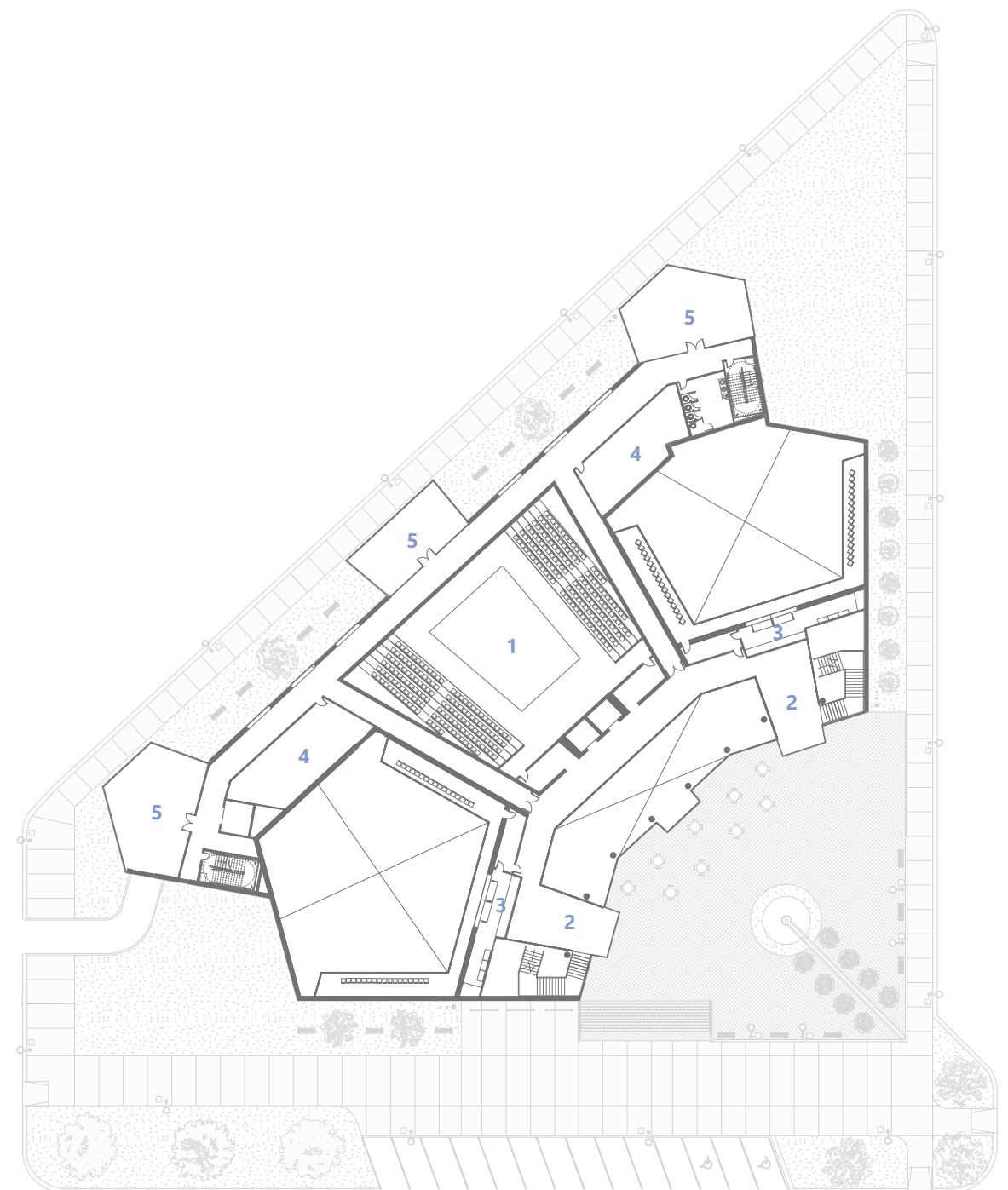
ESTABLISH HIERARCHY
Raise height to callout the three performance spaces



LEVEL 01

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Bike Storage | 8. Storage | 15. Green Room |
| 2. Fountain | 9. Dressing Room | 16. Donor's Lounge |
| 3. Sculpture | 10. Administration | |
| 4. Loading | 11. Restrooms | |
| 5. Courtyard | 12. Recital Hall | |
| 6. Lobby | 13. Coat Check | |
| 7. Black Box | 14. Workshop | |

1" = 50' 



LEVEL 02

- | |
|-------------------|
| 1. Dance Studio |
| 2. Balcony |
| 3. Control Room |
| 4. Mechanical |
| 5. Rehearsal Room |



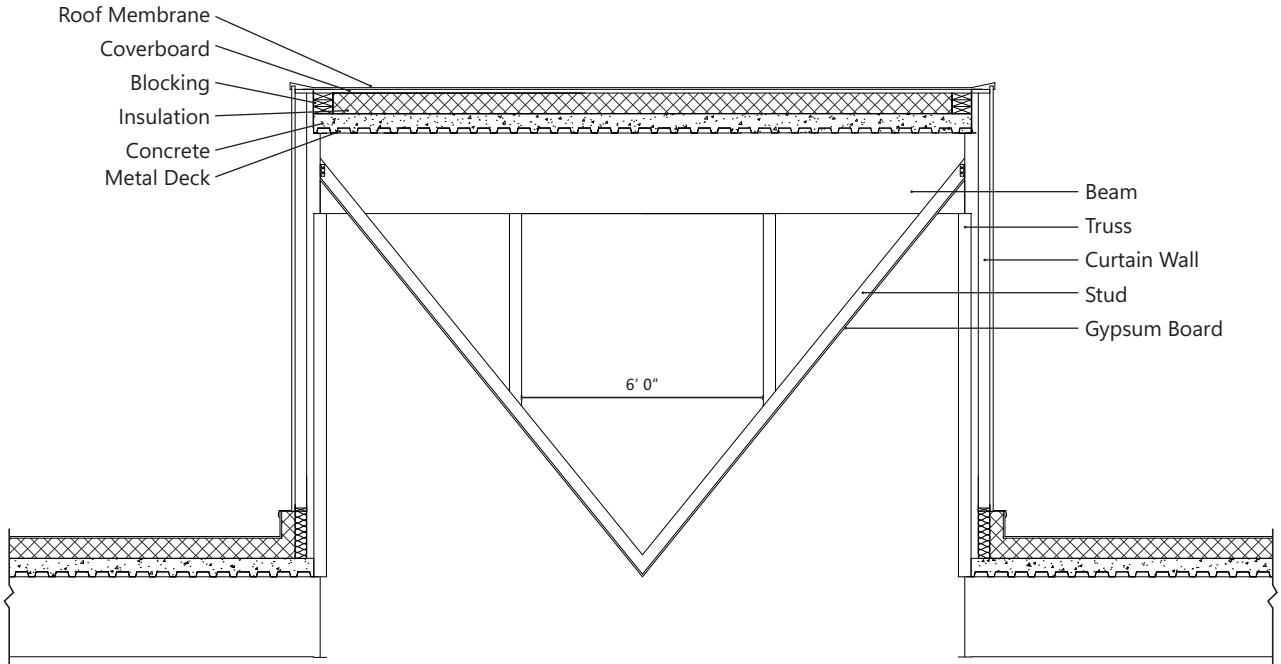
APPROACH

The head-on view of the building is symmetrical, with the main entrances located on either side of a central tree-lined fountain. The design creates a balanced appearance with a sense of order, and the focal point draws attention to the entrances and the surrounding landscaping.

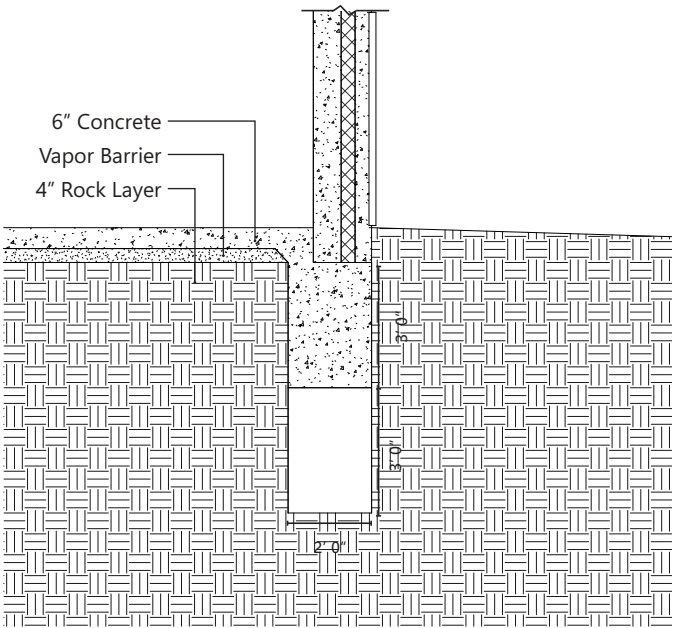
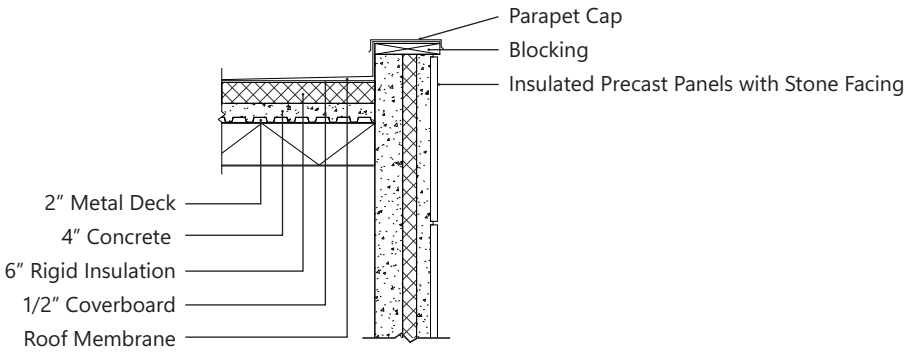


LOBBY

The lobby features an expansive atrium that creates a sense of openness and grandeur. Balconies on both sides overlook the central area, offering a view of the space below. The facade is composed of glass and polycarbonate, allowing outward views. Light pours in from the light wells above, further enhancing the airy, open feel of the space.

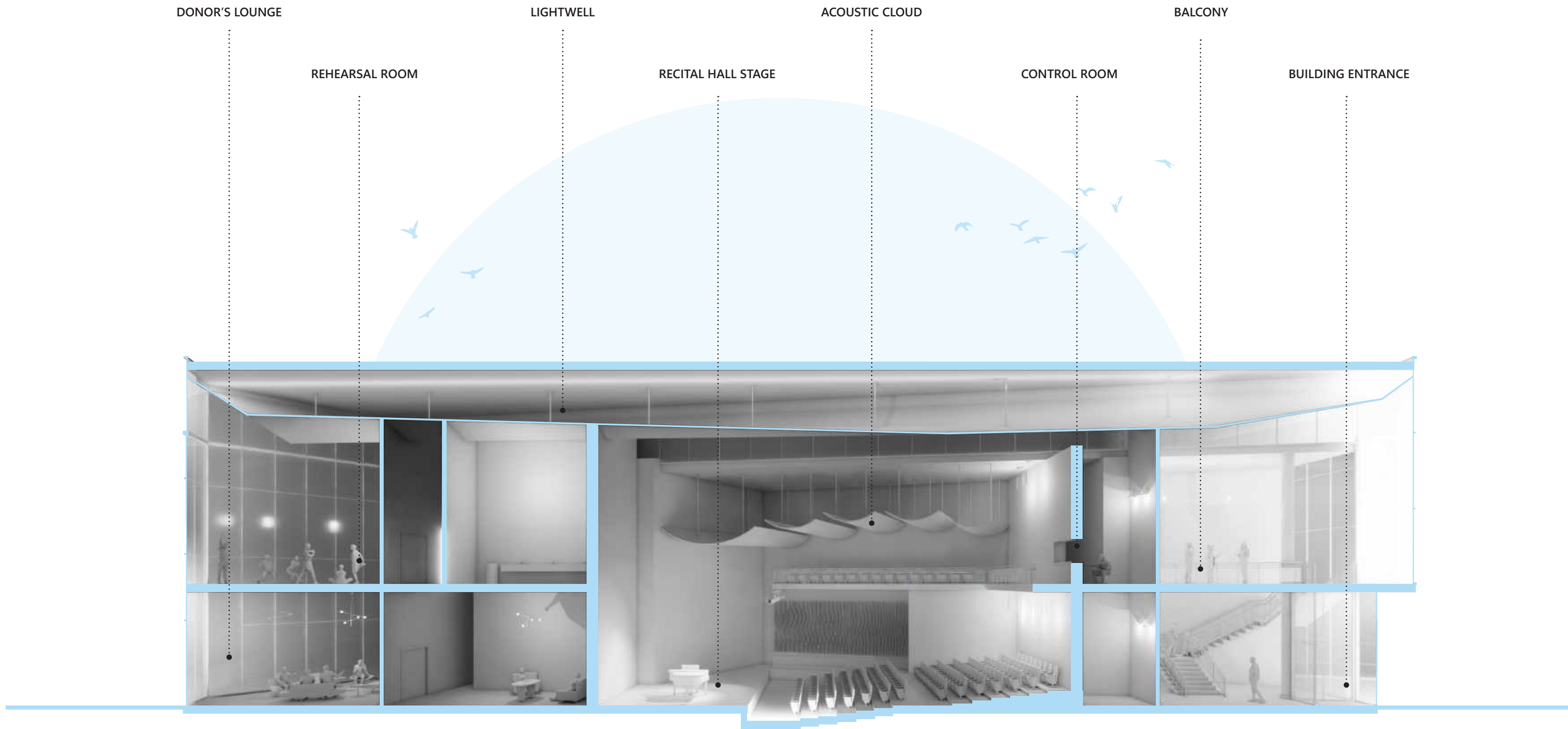


LIGHTWELL SECTION DETAIL
1/8" = 1' 0"



EXTERIOR WALL DETAIL
1/8" = 1' 0"

EAST SECTION





03

RYAN GRAY PAVILLION

Lawrence, Kansas

Shade Structure

Fall 2023

This design-build project at Hillcrest Elementary School involved the creation of a functional and meaningful shade pavilion to provide relief from the sun on the school's playground. Designed and constructed collaboratively by our class, the pavilion honors the memory of Ryan Gray, a former student whose life continues to inspire the community.

The pavilion's design incorporates input from students, faculty, and community members to ensure it meets their needs. The result is a thoughtful space that fosters play, reflection, and community connection.



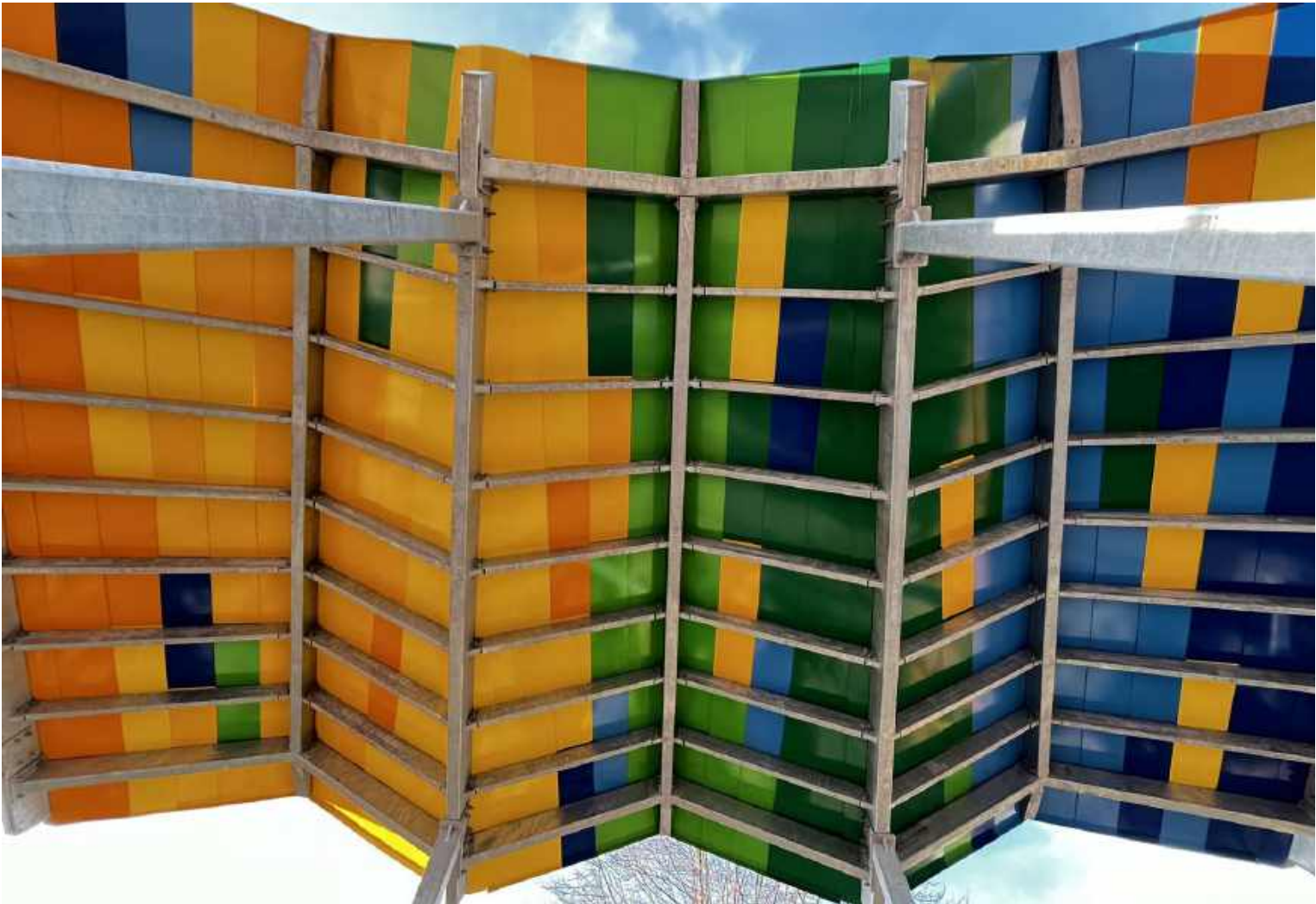
STUDENT TEAM

Ocean Babcock
Allison Brooks
Natalie Chalona
Monet DeFreece
Anna Dority
Ellie Gooden
Matthew Hahn
Shyann Jonscher
Alice Kucherov
Ashley Loza-Hernandez
Nick Peterson
Kevin Rauch
Jeffery Tistoj-Lara
Jillian Tomlinson
Alex Ultzsch
Rich Wiggins
Elaina Wright



FABRICATION & CONSTRUCTION

The fabrication of pavillion was conducted at the East Hills Warehouse, where my classmates and I designed and assembled the pavilion’s components. The process involved welding, cutting, and drilling to achieve precise specifications, ensuring the structural integrity and alignment with the design intent. Comprehensive documentation accompanied each step, facilitating seamless on-site assembly.



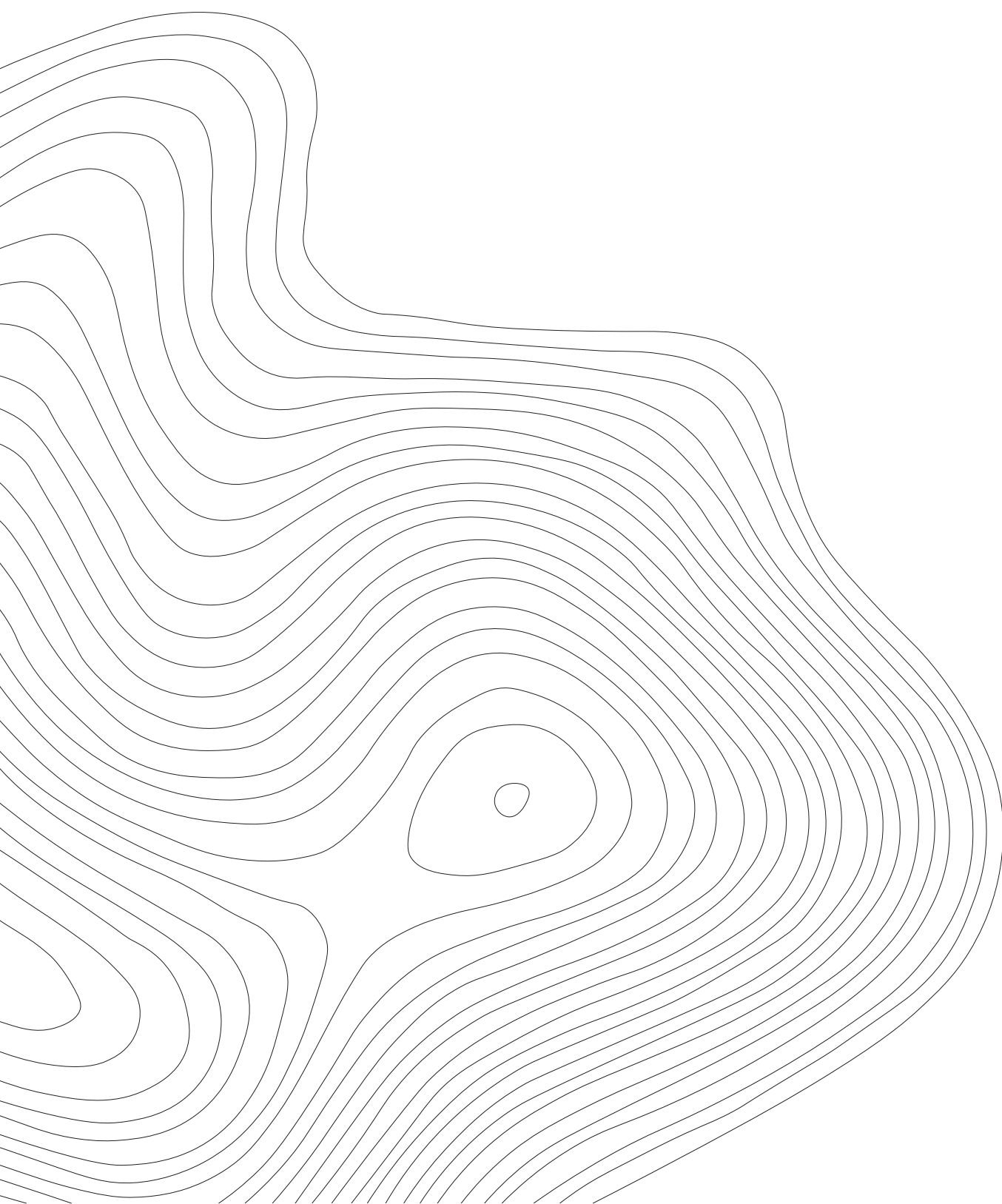


COMPLETION

The project was completed and officially opened to the public on December 15, 2023. Featuring over 150 hand-cut, powder-coated roof tiles, the pavilion is supported by a galvanized steel structure, combining durability with an elegant aesthetic. This design will provide a vibrant, functional space for the elementary school community for years to come.







thank you